

The Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil

The norm at the Easter Vigil is the celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) for Adults and Children of Catechetical Age and/or the Celebration of the Baptism of Infants.

Though current pastoral practice means that the Sacraments of Initiation are often combined with the Rite of Reception this is not the normative practice envisioned by the Rite — hence its placing in an appendix. Whereas the stages for the Catechumens are focussed on the Easter Vigil those who are to be received into Full Communion may be received at any time — when they are ready. Similarly no provision is made in the liturgical books for Reception alone at the Vigil — for the same reasons. What is provided below is based on the combined rite.

Options

There are 4 pathways given below:

1. Baptism & Confirmation of Catechumens
and/or Baptism of Infants
2. Baptism & Confirmation of Catechumens
with Reception into Full Communion
3. No celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation
4. Reception into Full Communion

Place

The other important option is where the first part takes place:

- In the Baptistry at the Font
- On the Sanctuary with a Vessel of Water

The renewed liturgy places great emphasis on the ability of the faithful to witness these Sacraments and this should help decide which of the options is followed. The revised *Roman Missal* assumes that the Rite of Confirmation will take place on the Sanctuary

Rites

The revised *Roman Missal* does not include the texts for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. These texts are found in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (and the *Rite of Baptism*). This requires therefore a certain juggling between the two texts. Where possible preference should be given to the new translation.

- [] a reference to the Rite
- { } an optional element
- = common to both places

1. Baptism and Confirmation of Catechumens

Baptism of Infants

1	<i>Baptistry</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1A	Presentation of Catechumens & Infants [RCIA 212/RM38]	Presentation of Catechumens & Infants [RCIA 212/RM38]	Use <i>Roman Missal</i> until 1D
1B	Procession to Font Litany of Saints [RCIA 214/RM 43] Litany: Concluding Prayer [RM 43] Invitation to Prayer [RCIA 213/RM 40]	Invitation to Prayer [RCIA 213/RM 40] Litany of Saints [RCIA 214/RM 43] Litany: Concluding Prayer [RM 43]	The Concluding Prayer to the Litany is only found in RM43
1C	Blessing of Baptismal Water [RCIA 215 (ABC)/RM 44] Acclamation	=	
1D	Profession of Faith Renunciation of Sin (RCIA 217*) {Anointing with Oil of Catechumens [RCIA 218]} Profession of Faith [RCIA 219*]	=	Use RCIA from this point RM 49 introduces the possibility if there are many to be baptised that all make Renewal of Baptismal Promises after those to be baptised and/or parents and godparents.
1E	Baptism [RCIA 220]	=	
1F	{Anointing with Chrism (Infants and if adults are not being confirmed) [RCIA 222]} {Clothing with Baptismal Garment [RCIA 223]} Presentation of a Lighted Candle [RCIA 224]	=	
			If Infants only or if Confirmation deferred → Renewal of Baptismal Promises [RM 55]

1G		Confirmation [RCIA 225]	There may be a suitable song between the celebration of Baptism & Confirmation
1H		Procession to Sanctuary [RM52] Singing <i>Vidi Aquam</i>	RM has Sanctuary as the only option. RCIA has either Baptistery or Sanctuary RM can be understood to place a weight on the connection between Confirmation & Eucharist
1I		Invitation [RCIA 227] Laying on of hands [RCIA 228] Anointing with Chrism [RCIA 229]	During Confirmation a suitable song may be sung [RCIA 229]
1J		Renewal of Baptismal Promises by Congregation [RM55] Sprinkling	Back to <i>Missal</i>
1K		Neophytes are led to place among the faithful [RCIA 230/RM 57]	
		If blessing of baptismal water has not taken place in baptistery the Deacon and the ministers reverently carry the water to the font. [RM 57]	

2. Baptism and Confirmation of Catechumens Reception into Full Communion

	<i>Baptistry</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>	<i>Notes</i>
2			
2A	Presentation of Catechumens & Infants [RCIA 424/RM38]	Presentation of Catechumens & Infants [RCIA 212/RM38]	
2B	Procession to Font Litany of Saints [RCIA 426/RM 43] Litany: Concluding Prayer [RM 43] Invitation to Prayer [RCIA 425/RM 40]	Invitation to Prayer [RCIA 425/RM 40] Litany of Saints [RCIA 426/RM 43] Litany: Concluding Prayer [RM 43]	The Concluding Prayer to the Litany is only found in RM43
2C	Blessing of Baptismal Water [RCIA 427/RM 44] Acclamation	=	
2D	Profession of Faith Renunciation of Sin (RCIA 429) {Anointing with Oil of Catechumens [RCIA 430]} Profession of Faith [RCIA 431]	=	RM 49 introduces the possibility if there are many to be baptised that all make Renewal of Baptismal Promises after those to be baptised and/or parents and godparents.
2E	Baptism [RCIA 432]	=	
2F	{Anointing with Chrism (Infants and if adults are not being confirmed) [RCIA 434]} {Clothing with Baptismal Garment [RCIA 435]} Presentation of a Lighted Candle [RCIA 436]	=	

2G	Renewal of Baptismal Promises [RCIA 437] Renunciation of Sin [RCIA 438] Profession of Faith [RCIA 439] Sprinkling [RCIA 440]	=	By all
2H		Celebration of Reception Invitation [RCIA 441] Profession by the Candidates [RCIA 442] Act of Reception [RCIA 443]	If Baptism has been celebrated at the font process to the sanctuary. A suitable song may be sung [RCIA 441]
2I		Celebration of Confirmation Invitation [RCIA 446] Laying on of hands [RCIA 447] Anointing with Chrism [RCIA 448]	A suitable song may be sung before the celebration of Confirmation [RCIA 444] During Confirmation a suitable song may be sung [RCIA 448]
2J		All led to their places in the assembly	

3. Baptismal Liturgy with no celebration of the Sacraments

3	<i>Baptistery</i> <i>if the font is to be blessed</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i> <i>if the font is not to be blessed</i>
3A	Procession to Font Litany of Saints [RM 43] Invitation to Prayer [RM 40]	
3B	Blessing of Baptismal Water [RM44]	Blessing of Water [RM54]
3C	Renewal of Baptismal Promises [RM55] Sprinkling [RM56]	Renewal of Baptismal Promises [RM55] Sprinkling [RM56]
		If blessing of baptismal water has not taken place in baptistery the Deacon and the ministers reverently carry the water to the font or it is put aside in an appropriate place. [RM 57]

4. Reception of Baptised Christians into full Communion

4	Baptistery <i>if the font is to be blessed</i>	Sanctuary <i>if the font is not to be blessed</i>	Notes
4A	Procession to Font Litany of Saints [RM 43] Invitation to Prayer [RM 40]		
4B	Blessing of Baptismal Water [RM44]	Blessing of Water [RM54]	
4C	Renewal of Baptismal Promises [RCIA 437] Renunciation of Sin [RCIA 438] Profession of Faith [RCIA 439] Sprinkling [RCIA 440]		By all
4D		Celebration of Reception Invitation [RCIA 441] Profession by the Candidates [RCIA 442] Act of Reception [RCIA 443]	If Baptism has been celebrated at the font process to the sanctuary. A suitable song may be sung [RCIA 441]
4E		Celebration of Confirmation Invitation [RCIA 446] Laying on of hands [RCIA 447] Anointing with Chrism [RCIA 448]	A suitable song may be sung before the celebration of Confirmation [RCIA 444] During Confirmation a suitable song may be sung [RCIA 448]
4F		All led to their places in the assembly	